

1 [Manilatown]

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3 **Resolution supporting the establishment of Manilatown as a Filipino historical and**
4 **cultural center in Chinatown.**

5 WHEREAS, Since the 1910's to the 1970's, Manilatown served as the first Filipino
6 community in San Francisco; and

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8 WHEREAS, In the 1920's and 1930's Manilatown housed more than 20,000 Filipino
9 laborers in its heyday and numerous Filipino-owned businesses; and

10 WHEREAS, Manilatown provided affordable housing, a convenient resting spot, a
11 respite filled with comforting cultural meanings; and

12 WHEREAS, In August 1977, after nearly ten years of resistance, Asian Americans
13 tenants from the International Hotel were evicted, the last vestige of Manilatown, eliminating
14 their home and community; and

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16 WHEREAS, The International Hotel Citizens Advisory Committee, formed under Mayor
17 Dianne Feinstein after the hotel was demolished in 1979, continued its guardianship of the
18 site for affordable housing; and

19 WHEREAS, The new International Hotel Senior Housing will once again house low-
20 income seniors under the auspices of the International Hotel Senior Housing Inc., a
21 collaboration of Manilatown Heritage Foundation, Chinatown Community Development
22 Center, and Kearney Street Housing Corporation; and

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1 WHEREAS, The International Hotel Manilatown Center on the ground floor of the new
2 International Hotel Senior Housing will memorialize the struggle of the International Hotel for
3 low income housing; and

4 WHEREAS, The Manilatown Heritage Foundation, created in 1994 to advocate for the
5 rebuilding of the International Hotel and the preservation of the “Manilatown legacy,” provides
6 the “Link to the pas and a bridge to the future” for the Filipino American Community; and
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8 WHEREAS, For a decade, the Filipino community has been working towards the
9 establishment of the International Hotel Manilatown Center as a historical and cultural center
10 of attraction; and

11 WHEREAS, The Manilatown Heritage Foundation has been working with City agencies
12 and departments towards the development of a visible historical and cultural center that
13 would contribute to the vibrancy of San Francisco, and as former Mayor Willie L. Brown said,
14 “When we turn the light on for the first time in the I-Hotel, let them also illuminate the
15 Manilatown Center and throughout the Filipino American community”; and
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17 WHEREAS, The City and County of San Francisco is home to one of the most diverse
18 populations of immigrants who are an integral part of the City’s cultural richness and
19 economic vibrancy; now, therefore, be it

20 RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors of the City and County of
21 San Francisco supports the Manilatown Heritage Foundation unfurling “Manilatown” banners
22 along the Kearney Street corridor from Jackson Street to Washington Street as part of the
23 establishment of International Hotel Manilatown Center at the new International Hotel Senior
24 Housing; and, be it
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1 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors hereby declare
2 July 27, 2004 “Manilatown Day” to commemorate the 27th year of the International Hotel
3 eviction; and be it

4 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the City and County of San Francisco commends the
5 efforts of the Filipino community and the Manilatown Heritage Foundation for developing
6 “Manilatown” as an effort towards increased cultural visibility, vibrancy, independence and
7 community preservation.
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